

Soil and Water Conservation Commission Cost Share Committee
December 12, 2013: 8:30am

Teleconference: [\(919\)420-1375](tel:9194201375)
Webinar: <https://agr.ncgovconnect.com/csc/>

Attendees: Davis Ferguson, Charles Bass, Brian Lannon, Kelly Ibrahim, Gavin Thompson, Vicky Porter, Jason Walker, Julie Henshaw, Keith Larick, Tom Hill, Ken Parks, Natalie Woolard

Draft Minutes

1. Consideration of October 2013 meeting minutes: approved by consensus.
2. Consideration of revisions to the approval of cost share applications, contracts and requests for payments policy: Revisions approved by consensus.
3. Consideration of repair policy revisions: Revisions approved by consensus.
4. Consideration of spot check policy revisions: Revisions approved by consensus.
5. Finalization of non-compliance policy revisions: Revisions approved by consensus.

6. Technical assistance

The committee discussed different scenarios that should be run to help evaluate different options for technical assistance allocations. The following scenarios will be discussed that the next meeting:

1. Current salary & benefits support (every district **requesting** with 1 employee)
2. 50% up to the cap \$25,500
3. 50% up to the cap of \$20,000
4. 1-3 above with all districts receiving 1 employee
5. Consider performance – rating for encumbrances and expenditures; compare at 1 employee ratio
 - a. Using SWCC programs only
 - b. Using SWCC and NRCS programs combined
6. Combine salary, benefits & operating –funding capability of district, not specific employee

Other items of discussion included the step process:

- how to set values per tier
- what should make up a tier.
- Consider developing 3 tiers
- Describe JAA required in a tier: design and construction

The committee supports using a longer-term window as these funds provide support for positions: consider data for the best three out of four closed program years.

Follow up on the following items after the next meeting:

- A suggestion was made to gather data on salaries for newly hired employees to determine if funding will change as employees change.
 - Consider how to obtain information for other funding sources from districts (BMPs funded by grants, other outside sources).
7. Issues from committee members
- Consider development of a general biosecurity policy. NCDA&CS has the following guidance available: <http://www.ncagr.gov/vet/FarmBiosecurity.htm>
8. Set next meeting date
- Julie will contact Vicky and share available dates through a doodle poll.
9. Future meeting agenda topics:
- a. Conservation planning
 - b. Program Development & Eligibility Policies – last section of the manual to review
 - i. Introducing new or revised BMPs to cost share programs
 - ii. New and expanded operations
 - iii. Policy on program outreach
 - iv. Use of cost share program funds on new site (not new operation)
 - v. Commission guidance for .0200 certified operations
 - vi. Supplemental allocation of cost share financial assistance
 - vii. Strategy plan
 - c. Cost Share allocation rule revisions
 - d. District assessment – score cards